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panying analysis of the mental processes and cumulative contemporary circumstances, which explain his actions, even if they do not justify them. It is not enough to say that he was following the policy of his father in the Seven Years' War.

Mr. Rose's presentation of Pitt's policy in Irish matters and his effort to give an account of the radical and Jacobin movement in England seem to the reviewer the best parts of this volume. The best point in his treatment of foreign affairs is that which he stressed in his little book on the *Revolutionary and Napoleonic Era*, i. e. that "Poland was the cancer which ate into the vitals of the First Coalition."

GUY STANTON FORD.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

A History of Preston in Amounderness. By H. W. CLEMESHA.
Manchester at the University Press, 1912.—xi, 344 pp.

The University of Manchester has already won for itself a distinct place in historiography by the service which it has rendered students of English social history, in publishing intensive studies of localities on the one hand and of industries upon the other. The conception of English history which includes such contributions as those of the Manchester Economics Department on the Industrial Revolution, especially on the cotton industry, and on the other hand the technical monographs based upon borough records over which Professor Tait's genius seems so largely to preside, is a conception far removed from the quiet library of a bishop of Oxford. It is doubtful if the authors of these different contributions realize themselves the significance of the possible synthesis which their labors suggest, a story of social evolution seen in direct connection with the motor forces of the common life. If they have so seen things, they have not, so far as we know, disclosed the fact as yet. But no body of historical research, not even that which we owe to the London School of Economics, is of more fundamental importance in laying the basis for a social history which will be scientific in the genuine historical sense. It is imperative that the municipalities and villages of England should be studied in detail, their occupations, the fluctuations in their trades, their varying fortunes with the shifting of agricultural and industrial population, the statistics of their local rates, minute but vital items as to wages, cost of living etc. A study of such local details in the France of the old régime is now remaking our conceptions of the bases of the Revolution. Undoubtedly this method when applied to England will furnish similar revision of perspectives.

The present volume is a thorough-going, scholarly piece of work,

based directly upon original documents. It begins with a chapter upon the Borough and its Lords down to the union of the Duchy of Lancaster with the Crown ; then follows the description of town life in the Middle Ages, given in terms of a translation of the *Costumal*. Here the author was fortunate in being able to translate the text already prepared by Miss Bateson ; for Preston had been granted the customs of Breteuil. The Guild Merchant is similarly analyzed, and then, after a survey of the transformations under Tudors and Stuarts, we come upon the Industrial Revolution and the problems of modern times. It must be admitted, however, that here our author hardly sees the woods for the trees. Only the student who proposes to use these data for something else and the patriotic citizen of Preston will be likely to read the book through.

A final word of commendation should be added for the form in which this, as well as the other studies of the Manchester University Press, appears. There are helpful diagrams and an exhaustive index.

J. T. SHOTWELL.

The Evolution of States, An Introduction to English Politics.

By J. M. ROBERTSON. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1913.—ix, 487 pp.

Slowly but steadily the English-reading public has been awakening to the calibre of this versatile author. Long known mainly as an uncompromising "free-thinker," the author of *Pagan Christs* and *Christianity and Mythology*, the first notable exponent of the Christ-myth theory, it was the chief business of reviewers to show up the slips in the author's scholarship, and to ridicule his conclusions. But Robertson kept on. His scholarship was broad if it did sometimes miss a point ; and he brought to his problems a brain of more than ordinary power and a capacity for work which excites the admiration of even his critics. Still in the prime of life, he has some twenty-five works to his credit, some of them apparently embodying years of preliminary study. And now, although winning his way to the upper spheres of public life as a member of the present liberal administration, he continues his scholarly and literary career. When one learns that this has been accomplished in the face of personal discouragement, one approaches this book in a sympathetic frame of mind. The book, however, needs no special favors. It is a solid volume of suggestive theory, backed up by a mass of historical data ; and every sociological student of history should take account of it.